

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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"... THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE,
SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH."

—Lincoln

AFRICA—PROSPECTS AND POTENTIALITIES

A New Era

The United States has been traditionally unconcerned, for the most part, with Africa and its affairs . . .

There seems little doubt, however, that we are entering a new era of relations with Africa and its peoples, particularly since many of the European colonies are moving toward independence, taking with them a healthy desire to advance economically and reach a higher standard of living . . .

From a huge, sprawling primitive and undeveloped area completely under the direction of European powers it is moving slowly but unmistakably toward modernization, political consciousness, and independence.

In this transition the struggling handful of literate African leaders place a great trust in the possibility of aid and guidance from the United States. They believe fervently in the democratic, self-determining ideology which this country represents for subject peoples all over the world. The dignity of man, the equality of all peoples, the worth of the individual — to African peoples, the United States stands for all these . . .

More and more, however, African students — the backbone of political leadership in modern Africa — who come to this country to study are disillusioned by being segregated and refused many public services. Few of them are disillusioned to the extent of totally rejecting further contacts with our country, but their experiences cannot but lessen their faith in the leadership of the United States. . .

The peoples of Africa after long centuries of simple tribal life dominated by European interests are beginning to absorb modern world ideals of democracy, human rights, and freedom, and their first moves are in the direction of removing the shackles of colonial rule which they feel bind them.

It is our duty to recognize these native desires and to cooperate actively in their realization. The actions of white Amer-

icans toward Negroes, in this country and in Africa, cannot continue to be contradictory to our professed ideals of human rights and democracy if we wish to develop warm and cordial relations with African peoples. (*New South*, Aug.-Sept.)

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Libya

By January 1, 1952, Libya, another African country, will become the master of its own fate and join the family of free nations. The country will comprise the territories of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan. This area was taken from Turkey by Italy. After the fall of Mussolini's empire in North Africa, the Big Four were unable to reach agreement on the future of the former Italian colonies and asked the United Nations General Assembly to settle the question. For Libya, the verdict was independence. . .

The population of Libya, although predominantly Arab, is mixed. In Tripolitania, for example, of the 800,000 people, 730,000 are Arabs. There is considerable admixture of Arabs with Berbers, some of whom are black people. However, the concept of race as we know it does not obtain. A person might be black, what we would call a Negro, but if he is a Moslem he is classified by that religion rather than race. The population of Fezzan is approximately 50,000. Ethnically, they are mixed, containing elements of both fair-skinned and dark-skinned races. . .

What is happening in Libya today is a forerunner of what will happen before long in other parts of Africa. In ten years, Somaliland, a black African territory, has been promised its independence. The Gold Coast already has made great strides

toward self-rule, as has Nigeria. . . . It is possible that within the next two decades Africa, as a continent, will be as important and, perhaps, as powerful as Asia is today. (*Pittsburgh Courier*, October 20).

The Sudan

The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan has by Egypt's latest move become a pawn in the three-way struggle between British and Egyptian imperialism and in the cold war between the East and the West. This African territory of nearly a million square miles, a quarter of the area of Europe, is bounded by Egypt on the North; the Red Sea, Eritrea and Ethiopia on the East, by French Equatorial Africa on the West, and Kenya, Uganda and the Belgian Congo on the South.

Because of her strategic position, as well as her natural resources, control of the territory is vital to the program of expansion of the Arab League, the power of the British Empire in the Middle East and as a strategic base in case of conflict with the USSR.

Egypt's declaration that she intended to expel the British from the Suez Canal and take over the Sudan, which she had jointly ruled with England, was just one more move to expand the power of the Arab League and destroy English influence in the Middle East.

Iran set the example by seizing the property of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Egypt followed suit by her move to evict Britain from the Suez Canal Zone and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. This move was followed by Iraq who demanded a revision of her treaty of alliance with Britain. Having been somewhat successful in their bid for power in the Middle East the Arabs are now, by Egypt's move, challenging England's power in Africa.

The crisis has already put the Sudanese in a position to bargain, to an extent, with both the English and the Arabs. Although they are still a subject people both nations would make some effort to hold their allegiance and prevent an uprising. . . .

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

The paramount interest of the Sudanese, as with the other African colonies, is for self rule. The Sudanese feel that they are ready for self rule and will demand it from either the British or the Egyptians. (*Pittsburgh Courier*, October 20).

Gold Coast Countries

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast and leader of the radical Convention People's party, dropped a "political atom bomb" into the camp of the paramount chiefs and native conservative political parties, when he challenged them to join him in staging a nation-wide non-violent, non-cooperative campaign for immediate Dominion status. . . .

The challenge was delivered at the greatest mass meeting ever witnessed in the Gold Coast. For days before the dynamic nationalist leader assailed his opponents, thousands of Africans from all of the Gold Coast journeyed to Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti, to hear Dr. Nkrumah deliver the greatest speech of his political career. . . .

Dr. Nkrumah's speech is a challenge to all conservative political parties to form a "united front" with his party in issuing an ultimatum to the British government for immediate Dominion status or to stand exposed as political opportunists if they rejected taking part in a "positive action" campaign to achieve their political aspirations. . . . (*Pittsburgh Courier*, October 20).

Union of South Africa

The Union of South Africa is moving toward a tragic and extremely serious political crisis which is second only to the cold war between Russia and the Western World, a highly significant report indicated recently. The report was prepared by Alan Paton, distinguished South African socio-political authority. . . .

The seat of South African unrest, Paton wrote, is in the drastic actions the Premier Malan government has taken to separate and segregate the races. The government proposes to lay down rigid legislative restrictions designed to keep each of the four segments of the South African population to itself. . . . Paton called the situation "explosive" because of the sharply divergent historical backgrounds of the Afrikaners of Dutch and English descent as pitted against nine and one-half million Negroes, "colored people" and Indians.

As of January non-Europeans are listed on separate voting rolls. They elect white representatives to an all-white Parliament. Appropriations to welfare groups hinges on the condition that no mixed meetings be held. Nothing has been left undone to insure segregation of the races.

Dr. Emory Ross, secretary of the Africa Committee for the National Council of

Churches of Christ . . . told newsmen, "Many of the policies of the Malan government are not in the best interests of either the nationalists, themselves, Pan-African relations or the well-being of the entire world."

Dr. Ross, who has visited Africa and made a thorough study of the race relations problem, saw tension mounting steadily under the Malan government. . . .

Although in a majority Negroes and other non-white groups bear an unbelievably heavy burden of restrictions and regulations. They cannot work in the white area, nor can they go to white schools or churches. Doctors do not treat white and non-white patients in the same office — and there are painfully few Negro doctors. . . .

In general, Afrikaners are terrified that one day they will be absorbed or squeezed out of South Africa. There are two and one-half million of them. This fear, according to Paton, motivates an almost fanatic nationalism. The underlying force for it is rigid segregation.

Paton, who wrote the book, *Cry The Beloved Country*, hesitates to predict that the conflict between the whites and non-Europeans in South Africa will end in disaster. But there is that possibility. He suggests that outside pressure — the United Nations, the U. S., other European Countries — may compel the present government to relax its unhealthy policies. (*N. Y. Amsterdam News*, Oct. 20).

News Travels!

The significance of apparently local decisions is brought into revealing focus when a theatre in the nation's capitol refused admission to Negroes last summer. This incident, traveling the news route, comes back via *Race Relations News*, Sept. published in Johannesburg, South Africa. It reads: "The Metropolitan Opera Company of America has cancelled plans for the production of *Die Fledermaus* in Washington because the theatre refused to lift its ban on the admission of Negroes. The Actors' Equity has ruled against performances in theatres insisting on segregation."

Accompanying this issue of *Interracial News Service* is a descriptive flyer presenting "South Africa Today," a Public Affairs Pamphlet. The importance of this report by Alan Paton is assessed by Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes:

"Except for the conflict between the Soviet Union under its Marxian leaders and freedom-loving peoples, there is no world problem more difficult and more potentially explosive than that involving the non-European population in the Union of South Africa."

CICERO, U. S. A. — OF JURIES AND JUSTICE

Cicero and ghetto living in Chicago are fast becoming the symbols of American racism to the entire world. . . .

A grand jury investigated the riots at Cicero, an all-white town, where Harvey E. Clark, a Negro, was prevented from moving into an apartment that he had rented. Not one of the 126 persons arrested for rioting was indicted.

Instead, the Cook County grand jury returned indictments on September 18 against six persons.

One is Erwin Konovsky, Cicero police chief; a second is Norman Silverman who was alleged to have incited the mob by distributing Communist Party leaflets. The four others are Mrs. Camille DeRose, white former owner of the Cicero apartment building; George C. Adams, Negro attorney, who had represented Mrs. DeRose in the transfer of the property to a Negro syndicate; Charles Edwards, a Negro real estate agent; and George Leighton, a prominent Negro attorney for the NAACP, who represented Mr. Clark in a federal proceeding to restrain the police department of Cicero from interfering with his right to peaceful enjoyment of his apartment.

The indictment charges these four with 1) conspiracy to sell property to Negroes to depreciate the value of the property of white persons; 2) disturbing the peace and causing the riot; 3) damaging property; and 4) encouraging rioters to resist law enforcement officers who ordered the rioters to disperse.

Should these outrageous indictments be allowed to stand and the defendants convicted Cook County will have served notice to the world that the penalty for peaceful attempts to acquire decent housing outside the ghetto by minority Americans will be violence, arson and criminal prosecution.

This threat goes way beyond Cicero, Cook County and the State of Illinois.

Its international implications have been fully exploited throughout the world. (*Time*, October 19, and *Statement* from National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.)

J. Howard McGrath, Attorney General, said today that a Federal grand jury would investigate the race riots that broke out at Cicero, Ill., last July when a Negro bus driver moved into an "all-white" neighborhood.

He made the announcement after meeting with a group representing the Chicago Council against Racial and Religious Discrimination. (Those present at the meeting in the offices of the Attorney General were: A. Abbot Rosen, Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination; J. Oscar Lee, National Council of

Churches; Thomas Crowe, Catholic Interracial Council; Thomas E. Harris, Congress of Industrial Organizations; Frank Reeves, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Charles Abrams, National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing; Elmer Henderson, American Council on Human Rights; Herman Edelsberg, Washington Civil Rights Attorney.)

Mr. McGrath said that on the basis of information supplied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation he would ask a grand jury to investigate. It will determine whether the rights of any individual had been violated. (*New York Times*, September 27).

The Supreme Court agreed today to rule on the right of a Chicagoan to distribute literature which, it was alleged, tended to defame the Negro race.

Joseph Beauharnais, head of the White Circle League of America, was fined \$200 for distributing literature which read in part:

"Wanted —
"One million self-respecting white people in Chicago to unite under the banner of the White Circle League of America to oppose the national campaign now on and supported by Truman's infamous civil rights program and many pro-Negro organizations to amalgamate the black and white races with the object of mongrelizing the white race!"

An appeal on behalf of Mr. Beauharnais was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The union explained it was opposed to racism of any kind but asserted that "if the right of free speech and press means anything at all it means freedom for the expression of opinions we hate as well as those with which we agree."

Mr. Beauharnais was fined in the Municipal Court in Chicago under an Illinois law outlawing any publication or exhibition which "exposes the citizens of any race, color, creed or religion to contempt, derision, or obloquy, or which is productive of breach of the peace."

The Civil Liberties Union appeal said the Illinois law was unconstitutional because it was prohibitive of free speech, press and assemblage. (*New York Times*, October 9).

The action of the National Association of Real Estate Boards at its annual convention in November 1950 . . . voted to eliminate from its Code of Ethics the provision making it an unethical practice to introduce into a neighborhood "members of any race or nationality . . . whose presence will be detrimental to property values." In the past, realtors had been expelled from local real estate boards for selling property to persons barred by a racial restrictive covenant. (*Memorandum*, American Jewish Committee, August 15).

P.S. — It Can Be Done!

Albert M. Greenfield, president of the (Philadelphia) Chamber of Commerce, today cut a ribbon to open a \$3,000,000 apartment house for both Negro and white occupants.

Mr. Greenfield, president of Albert M. Greenfield & Co., real estate concern, described the fifteen-story Flamingo Apartments at Broad and Stiles Streets as a milestone in the fight to end racial discrimination in Philadelphia.

Leo A. Kirk, regional director of the Federal Housing Administration, cited Dr. Daniel Gevinson, Washington dentist and president of Flamingo Apartments, Inc., for his "vision and courage." (*New York Times*, September 30).

* * *

HUMAN RELATIONS IN RELIGION

Faith in Action

At a conference held at Howard University in Washington, September 14-15, over two hundred Protestant Church men and women voted to found a new organization to be called *Christian Action*. The purpose of the organization is to unite those who believe that Christian faith and principles must be expressed in the current struggle for justice in politics, economics, community life, and international relations. . . .

Its clear intention is to work through existing channels in the churches and councils of churches.

The following (excerpts from) statement of purpose was adopted at the conference: . . .

We believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ summons us to face fearlessly the political, economic, and social realities of our time, and to act responsibly for the healing of the whole man and of society. . . . The true Church is God's instrument properly transcending class, racial, and national loyalties. We are members of churches; we share their shortcomings; and we are under divine obligation to bring their fullest resources to bear on our common tasks. . . .

Chief among the evils confronting the Church are wide economic inequalities, racial tension, and conflict in a divided world. . . . We recognize that our failures and shortcomings have contributed to this disorder, and that the menace of international communism reveals in a special way the failure of the Church to be true to its Lord. . . .

These are some further judgments we make as Christians today in the present situations: . . .

All discrimination and segregation on the basis of race, class, creed, or national origin must be eliminated from our national life. The Church must begin with its own sin in this area. . . .

Our traditional civil liberties must be preserved and extended in the face of the attacks upon them which exploit present fears.

May God rule our actions, overruling our errors, unto the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Amen. . . . (*Christian Social Relations*, October 15).

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With a Negro as a production supervisor and a Negro in the leading role, Crusader Films has begun production of a motion picture depicting the work of the Josephite Fathers in the Negro field under the title of *America's No. 1 Mission Responsibility*. . . .

Leading part in the picture is being taken by William Greaves, Negro stage, screen, radio and television actor, who starred in *Lost Boundaries*. . . . Warren Coleman, Negro actor-producer, is production supervisor. . . . (*Catholic News*, September 29).

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The spirit of American brotherhood was . . . illustrated . . . in Fort Lee, N. J., in the last few weeks.

In that little town across the George Washington Bridge the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd's parish hall was thrown open to the Jewish Community Center because there was nowhere else to observe the High Holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

"The normal American thing to do" was the way the church pastor, the Rev. Charles J. Clarke described his good-neighborly action.

Margaret, his wife, did her part, too. She served as babysitter for 10 children so the parents might attend the High Holiday services.

The Rev. Mr. Clarke himself donned the Hebrew skullcap and prayed with his neighbors.

"It was the American way of life proving itself," said David Lev, president of the center.

It was, certainly, an answer to narrow-minded bigots, racists and their kind. It showed that Americanism can be put into action in our daily lives in the smallest corner of this great land. (*Journal-American*, October 15).

* * *

AMERICAN INDIANS

The discovery of evidence establishing 1552 as the founding date of the Iroquois Confederacy has brought about plans for a 400th anniversary of the six Indian nations.

The Six Nations Indian Agricultural Society will sponsor the celebration at the Indian Village during the New York State Fair in September, 1952, at Syracuse, ancient capital of the confederacy.

The find, ending a thirty-year search, was announced by Dr. E. A. Bates, Indian authority at Cornell University. The information was found in the diary of Jean

Wagenaar, eighteenth-century historiographer. . . .

The original five nations — Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas — admitted the Tuscaroras into the confederacy in 1712. Dr. Bates described their union which guaranteed inter-tribal neutrality between the Niagara and Hudson Rivers, as "the finest specimen of primitive statesmanship in all history." . . . (*New York Times*, October 7).

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The following resolution, passed unanimously by the 1951 convention of National Congress of American Indians lays down anew the policy of the NCAI with respect to its relationship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs:

"Whereas, the National Congress of American Indians in past conventions has taken the position that the continued function of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is essential to the welfare of our people and whereas we have not changed that policy, therefore,

"Be it resolved that the National Congress of American Indians shall become an instrument to serve the welfare of the Indians and that the Indians shall not be an instrument to serve the welfare of the Indian Bureau officials; that to that end this organization shall continue its policy of frankly criticizing the actions of any Bureau official who follows policies in conflict with the best interests of the Indian people;

"Be it further resolved in determining what policies are just and proper, this organization will, in the absence of a strong showing to the contrary, decide in favor of those that are sponsored by the annual convention of this organization, the local tribal councils, or other democratic organizations of the Indian people in preference to any conflicting views of public officials or others."

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Two members of the Navajo Tribe have been elected to positions in the McKinley County (New Mexico) Republican Party organization. Hoskie Naswood of Gallup was elected to the State Central Committee and John Perry of Crownpoint was named the organizations' treasurer.

This is the first time New Mexico has recognized Indians since National Congress of American Indians helped them to win the vote two years ago in the state. (*Washington Bulletin*, NCAI, June-July).

* * *

"... OF ONE BLOOD ..."

"The whole world watches every denial of human brotherhood," states Dr. Liston Pope, Dean, The Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Dr. Pope prepared the annual Message for the National Council of Churches to be used in the forthcoming 30th annual observance

of Race Relations Sunday, February 10, 1952.

The program authors include:

WORSHIP SERVICE: Dr. Georgia Harkness, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif.

PROGRAMS FOR: *Children* — Mrs. Alice L. Goddard, Director of Children's Work, Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches, Chicago, Ill.

Youth — Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Randall, Research Fellows, Division of Foreign Missions, The Methodist Church, New York, N. Y.

Women — Mrs. John Ormond, Chairman, Committee on Race Relations and Civil Liberties, General Department of United Church Women, National Council of Churches, New York, N. Y.

INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS: *Indians* — The Reverend George Walker, Superintendent, Charles H. Cook Christian Training School, Phoenix, Arizona.

Japanese — The Reverend Jitsuo Morikawa, Pastor, The First Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.

Spanish — Dr. Kenneth Miller, Executive Secretary, New York City Mission Society, New York, N. Y.

Negro — Alfred S. Kramer, Administrative Assistant, Department of Racial and Cultural Relations.

Advance orders indicate the probability of a record participation by all community agencies including churches. Prices: complete packet of literature — \$.15 each, \$10.00 per hundred; each section of packet — \$.05 each, \$2.00 per hundred.

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"TIME FOR A PROGRESS REPORT"

by WALTER WHITE

(A Review)*

Taking due cognizance of the past and present social evils and injustices with reference to Negro Americans and other dark-skinned Americans, Mr. White places major emphasis upon the positive side of the picture.

The following general areas were selected by Mr. White as those in which real progress has taken place during the last 10 years: Supreme Court decisions, education, civil rights, integration in the Armed Forces, ~~motion picture industry~~, employment-practice laws, labor unions, sports, the press, diplomatic and judicial posts, political power, employment mobility, housing, jim-crow in public accommodations, religion.

This article gives a comprehensive view of progress and the author concludes with a statement which reveals his keen insight into the problem: "The specific things which have been done are important but much more significant is the bloodless revolution of attitudes, national and individual."

*Significant articles in the area of racial and cultural relations are appearing more frequently among the nation's magazines. The editors will undertake to review one or two such articles in each issue of the INS. The article reviewed above was published in the September 22, issue of *The Saturday Review of Literature*.

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